

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 13792 191506Z

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 NIC-01 /078 W

----- 028535

R 191435Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1916

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 13792

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: GENERAL AMAN AND THE "DIRG"

REF: ADDIS 13730 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING WELL-PLACED RELIABLE MOD SOURCE KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO GENERAL AMAN, LATTER EXPECTED RETURN TO WORK NOVEMBER 20. AMAN, SOURCE SAID, IS EMOTIONALLY DRAINED AFTER VERY DIFFICULT EPISODE IN WHICH HE WAS CONFRONTED WITH (UNSPECIFIED) "DIRG" REQUESTS FOR "RADICAL CHANGES." WHEN AMAN DECLINED TO ACCEDE TO THESE "DIRG" DEMANDS, HEATED EXCHANGES ENSUED FROM WHICH AMAN EVENTUALLY EMERGED VICTORIOUS IN THAT "DIRG" SPOKESMAN AGREED TO "CONCESSIONS" WHICH AMAN HAD DEMANDED.

2. SOURCE WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF MAJOR MENGHISTU HAILE MARIAM BY NAME AND OF THE "DIRG", WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "A BUNCH OF CHILDREN" NOT QUALIFIED TO RUN THE COUNTRY.

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3. COMMENT: SOURCE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT AMAN HAS EMERGED

STRENGTHENED FROM THIS TRIAL. OTHER SOURCES ARE NOT SO SURE.
SOME SUGGEST THAT AMAN MAY HAVE LOST INFLUENCE; OTHERS DENY IT.
WE WILL SEE WHETHER AMAN IS BACK AT HIS DESK TOMORROW AS
ANTICIPATED.

4. IN FOLLOWING EVENTS HERE, DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE IN MIND THAT
ARENA IS LARGER THAN ADDIS "DIRG." TO ILLUSTRATE, AMAN APPARENTLY
SENT ONE OF HIS RESIGNATION MESSAGES TO ALL THE MAJOR UNITS OF
THE ARMED FORCES. THEIR REACTION MAY HAVE HAD/BE HAVING
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIRD DIVISION -- FROM
WHICH MAJOR MENGHISTU ALSO COMES -- OFFERED AMAN "CONSIDERABLE
SUPPORT."
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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